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## ARCHIVES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### Newsletter from the Section on Archives and Human Rights

*Winner of the Premio Internacional Derechos Humanos 2020 de la Asociación pro Derechos Humanos de España*

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### Commentary

#### **A catalyst for building Knowledge in a time of information overload**

*By Romain Ledauphin*

In this newsletter, you will be able to find news articles, journal articles, books, blog posts, radio shows, reports and exhibitions where archives and human rights collide on topics such as Colonialism, Racism, Restitution and the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Since June 2023, there have been more than 850 individual references collected, and since the inception of the newsletter in 2009, there have been thousands of references related to Archives and Human Rights which were tirelessly gathered. Sometimes, those references are not accessible anymore and can be difficult to retrieve among the more than 160 newsletter files.

With the idea anchored in its constitution to “Serve as a catalyst for building knowledge, skills and capacity among professional archivists for managing archives with human rights implications” for its almost 200 members, SAHR felt the urge to develop a tool to facilitate the search through this wealth of information.

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Send your suggestions for news items or comments to [sahr-newsletter@ica.org](mailto:sahr-newsletter@ica.org).

Launched on 10th December 2023 celebrating the 75th anniversary of the ICA and of the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and the 20th Anniversary of its predecessor, the ICA Human Rights Working Group, the Rights and Records Knowledge Base (R&R) was born to (a) increase awareness and understanding of the archives and human rights nexus by expanding the knowledge base; (b) preserve and disseminate material that is vulnerable to disappearance; (c) support the production of research and evidence-based policy using this material.

In addition to the SAHR regular monthly newsletter, R&R includes references that were used in the 2020 special issue of the ICA journal *Comma on Archives and Human Rights* and the 2021 “Archives and Human Rights” book, in English, French and Spanish.

Also, within its role of monitoring international discussions on human rights that have an archival component, SAHR has answered to more than 10 calls for inputs and drafted submissions to international organizations (including OHCHR, ICRC, and ICC). Those references are now available in R&R as well as the more than 10 recordings of the “SAHR Tuesday talks”.

In total, the database holds more than 2,000 references in their original language (Arabic, Czech, English, French, German, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Spanish) from 1789 to 2023 and made available through an interface in English. The collection includes the academic perspective with journal articles and books referenced but not always digitally accessible due to copyright and because the material is behind a paywall, and a diversity of other formats such as blog articles, newspapers articles, and podcasts..

To facilitate the reuse and citation of those references, it was decided to borrow a tool from the academic field and use a reference management system for both the newsletter and R&R to make the link between research and practice - tool to help retrieve, analyse, cross check, verify and hence unleash the knowledge contained in those references at a time of information overload. Selection of references can even be downloaded ready to be cited in new academic or non-academic productions.

## **SAHR News**

- Every January, the SAHR reviews its list of members jointly with the ICA Secretariat in Paris. This is a brief reminder that, to continue in membership of the Section on Archives and Human Rights, you need to select SAHR as one of the options on your ICA membership renewal documents. We love to continue serving the sectional membership, and we love hearing from you: - do feel free to write to us with ideas and suggestions.

## **Events**

Canada: [ACA@UBC 15th Annual Conference - University of British Columbia](#). [Association of Canadian Archivists Student Chapter at the University of British Columbia (ACA@UBC)], 2024-01, Association of Canadian Archivists Student Chapter at the University of British Columbia, [Climate Change]

Philippines: [Exhibition - How \(Not\) to Reread the Colonial Archive](#). [Placino, Portia], 2024-01-08, Art Review, [Colonialism]

Worldwide: [Call for Participants | Workshop UK Universities: "Mapping the Holocaust"](#). [European Holocaust Research Infrastructure], 2024-01-15, European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, [World War II]

Worldwide: [ICA-SAHR First Tuesday Talk by Elena Zhemkova, Co-founder and Executive Director of Memorial, moderated by José Faraldo, professor at the Madrid University Complutense. Event link and details forthcoming.](#) [International Council on Archives], 2024-02-06, [Human Rights]

*Would you like to promote your event (conference, webinar, exhibition, etc.) to an international audience? Please submit information, including title, description, date(s) and URL to [sahr-newsletter@ica.org](mailto:sahr-newsletter@ica.org) for upcoming publication.*

## **Editor's Note**

We are consistently reviewing and updating the newsletter to ensure that the news is presented in the most readable and logical way. Comments and feedback are welcome to [sahr-newsletter@ica.org](mailto:sahr-newsletter@ica.org).

## News by heading

### Business

[\*\*New Global Business Initiative on Human Rights resource provides insights from company practice on integrating human rights into climate action\*\*](#). The resource has been developed to support companies seeking to approach their climate action with respect for human rights. [Global Business Initiative], 2024-01-12, [Worldwide]

### Civil Rights

[\*\*Volunteers Race to Preserve Culturally Significant Records in Chinatown\*\*](#). A community-based volunteer group worked on digitising records related to community organisations in San Francisco's Chinatown. The records include those of organisations such as the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, which was at the forefront of filing civil rights lawsuits against the Chinese Exclusion Act and supporting newly arrived immigrants. [Wu, Zhe], 2024-01-12, San Francisco Public Press, [United States of America]

### Climate Change

[\*\*ACA@UBC 15th Annual Conference - University of British Columbia\*\*](#). The 15th annual conference is titled Archives and the Environment: Land, Colonialism, and the Climate Crisis. This event will be held virtually on Zoom on Friday, February 16th, 2024, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM (PST)! Registration is free for students. [Association of Canadian Archivists Student Chapter at the University of British Columbia (ACA@UBC)], 2024-01, Association of Canadian Archivists Student Chapter at the University of British Columbia, [Canada]

[\*\*Drought Touches a Quarter of Humanity. U.N. Says, Disrupting Lives Globally\*\*](#). The crisis, worsened partly by climate change, has been accompanied by soaring food prices and could have consequences for hunger, elections and migration worldwide. [Sengupta, Somini], 2024-01-11, The New York Times, [Worldwide]

### Colonialism

[\*\*Exhibition - How \(Not\) to Reread the Colonial Archive\*\*](#). 'Snare for Birds' at Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila revisits imperial and colonial narratives from the American occupation of the Philippines / Snare for Birds: Rereading the Colonial Archive at Ateneo Art Gallery, Manila, through 17 February 2024 [Placino, Portia], 2024-01-08, Art Review, [Philippines]

[\*\*Synchronising colonial heritage: a linked data approach\*\*](#). Since the seventeenth century, the Netherlands had trading posts and colonies in Asia, Africa and North and South America. Many cultural objects from these regions have been brought to the country. It is often unclear which objects should be considered 'colonial heritage' and, if so, whether they were acquired lawfully or against the will of their original owners. A new digital platform supports users in gaining insight into this: the Colonial Collections datahub. [Grujns, Marit], 2023-12-30, The Art of Information, [Worldwide]

## Crimes Against Humanity

[Switzerland/Gambia: Jammeh-Era Crimes on Trial](#). The opening of a Swiss trial for serious crimes committed in The Gambia on January 8, 2024 represents a significant advance for justice for the victims of grave abuses. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-01-05, Human Rights Watch, [Gambia]

[The Office of the Prosecutor launches public principles to advance understanding of the crime of gender persecution](#). The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, announced a new initiative to advance accountability for the crime against humanity of persecution on the grounds of gender. This initiative will culminate in a comprehensive set of principles on gender persecution to provide guidance for increasing its prevention, and ensuring protection and participation of its survivors. [Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court], 2024-01-17, International Criminal Court, [Worldwide]

## Destruction of documents

[Au Tchad, la «piscine» d'Hissène Habré finalement rasée?](#). Le siège de la Direction de la documentation et de la sécurité (DDS), police politique du régime d'Hissène Habré, a été démoli et ses archives mises en danger. La plus célèbre prison politique risque de connaître le même sort, s'alarment les victimes. [RFI], 2024-01-05, [Chad]

## Detention

[Gaddafi Son Wrongfully Held for 8 Years](#). Lebanese authorities should immediately release Hannibal Gaddafi, a son of Libya's former leader, who has been held in pre-trial detention on spurious charges since his arrest in December 2015. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-01-16, Human Rights Watch, [Lebanon]

## Disinformation

[Beware the 'botshit': why generative AI is such a real and imminent threat to the way we live](#). With pivotal global elections approaching, experts warn of AI's capability to influence outcomes through the production of deceptive content, a phenomenon termed "botshit." There is an urgent need for measures to mitigate AI's negative effects on political discourse and the information landscape. [Spicer, André], 2024-01-03, The Guardian, [Worldwide]

## Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

['Our god was locked in a US museum': the heritage hunters bringing home Nepal's lost treasures](#). Thousands of ancient artefacts have been taken out of the country. These Nepalese citizens are determined to get them back. [Adhikari, Rojita], 2024-01-24, The Guardian, [Nepal]

## Elections and electoral processes

[Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan gets 10 years in prison ahead of elections](#). Former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan, was accused of exposing state secrets by revealing a confidential document at a political rally. Khan was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison. [Ahmed, Munir], 2024-01-31, Associated Press, [Pakistan]

## **Environment and Land Defenders**

[Meet the retired women bringing Switzerland to court over climate inaction.](#) "Our generation has done so much to destroy the climate. We have a responsibility." The women are suing the Swiss government in Europe's top court for violating their human rights with policies that do too little to stop the planet from baking [Niranjan, Ajit], 2024-01-01, Mother Jones, [Switzerland]

## **Epidemic and pandemic**

[Hydroxychloroquine use in COVID pandemic may have led to 17,000 deaths.](#) The drug hydroxychloroquine was prescribed off-label during the pandemic and touted in particular by a prominent French researcher. [Duboust, Oceane], 2024-01-05, euronews, [Worldwide]

[The COVID-19 Pandemic and Memory: Remembrance, commemoration, and archiving in crisis.](#)

What happened to commemorative practices, events, and rituals around the world during the pandemic, and especially during lockdown periods in early 2020? The book also grapples with the inquiry as to how did the Covid-19 memory boom emerge? It finally puts forward the claim as the contributions of this book demonstrate: the Covid-19 crisis restricted social interaction but unlocked memory. 2024-01, [Worldwide]

[The European Convention on Human Rights and the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#) This book provides detailed analysis of the applicability of the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights to issues raised by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, a substantial number of complaints concerning such issues have been made to the Court. Human rights claims in the context of the pandemic fall into two broad categories: those based on arguments that states did not put in place sufficient measures to protect individuals from the virus and those entailing arguments that the measures put in place themselves involved breaches of rights. [McQuigg, Ronagh J.A.], 2024-01-16, [Europe]

## **Forced Labor**

[Why sex workers and unmarried women worked for no pay at these commercial laundries.](#) In the 19th century, Australia was home to Magdalene "retreats", Catholic-run institutions to reform wayward women. For some, the path to penitence was a brutal one. [Abela, Donna; Kelsey-Sugg, Anna], 2024-01-12, ABC News, [Australia]

## **Freedom of Expression**

[End Abuses Against Journalists.](#) No Justice for Suspicious Death; Detainee journalist Dieudonné Niyonsenga Denounces Torture in Court [Human Rights Watch], 2024-01-18, Human Rights Watch, [Rwanda]

[Indonesia is one of the world's largest democracies, but it's weaponising defamation laws to smother dissent.](#) Two human rights activists have been acquitted of defaming a powerful government minister. It's the latest in a string of concerning authoritarian uses of Indonesian law. [Mann, Tim], 2024-01-08, The Conversation, [Indonesia]

[Les abus à l'encontre des journalistes doivent cesser.](#) Absence de justice pour une mort suspecte ; le journaliste Dieudonné Niyonsenga détenu dénonce des actes de torture devant un tribunal [Human Rights Watch], 2024-01-18, Human Rights Watch, [Rwanda]

### [United Arab Emirates acknowledges mass trial of prisoners previously reported during COP28.](#)

The United Arab Emirates acknowledged it is conducting a mass trial of 84 inmates previously reported by dissidents. [Grambell, Jon; UPI], 2024-01-06, The Globe and Mail, [United Arab Emirates]

## **Freedom of Information**

[Crackdown Amid Growing Information Vacuum.](#) Belarusian authorities carried out a widespread and systematic crackdown on dissent and on the spread of information about rights abuses during 2023. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-01-11, Human Rights Watch, [Belarus]

[Grieving Louisiana father faces \\$18,000 bill to access state records of son's case.](#) Lawsuit alleges that office of Jefferson parish district attorney is violating state public records laws by setting such a high price. [Vargas, Ramon Antonio], 2024-01-19, The Guardian, [United States of America]

[Lower House discusses draft amendments for Right to Access Information in Jordan.](#) The Joint Lower House Committee approved the 2023 amendments, incorporating modifications after discussions with experts and relevant bodies. [The Jordan Times], 2024-01-11, The Jordan Times, [Jordan]

## **Freedom of the Press**

[Several Investigative Journalists Under Pressure in Ukraine.](#) On January 14, unknown assailants attempted to break into the Kyiv apartment of Ukrainian journalist Yurii Nikolov, co-founder and editor of anti-corruption media investigative project Nashi Groshi (Our Money). [Denber, Rachel; Gorbunova, Yulia], 2024-01-19, Human Rights Watch, [Ukraine]

## **Human Rights**

[Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Development and Human Rights: Towards an Integrated Approach.](#) The importance of cultural heritage - in both its tangible and intangible forms - to sustainable development and its economic, social and environmental components is increasingly evident in the recent practice of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations at the universal and regional level. 2024-01, [Worldwide]

[Danger and dignity in some of the world's vanishing trades - a photo essay.](#) From Egypt to Bangladesh, photographer Lucien Migné has documented the work of marginalised groups whose livelihoods have remained largely untouched by the modernisation of work. [Farand, Chloé], 2024-01-11, The Guardian, [Worldwide]

[El presidente Arévalo convoca a la fiscal general de Guatemala a rendir informe sobre temas "de preocupación".](#) El presidente de Guatemala, Bernardo Arévalo, informó este viernes que convocó a la fiscal general, Consuelo Porras, a una reunión para rendir un informe sobre temas que calificó como "de preocupación para esta Presidencia: derechos humanos, libertad de expresión, proceso de compras de vacunas contra el covid-19 y protocolos de actuación del Ministerio Público de Guatemala [CNN Español; Delcid, Merlín], 2024-01-20, CNN, [Guatemala]

[The Cambridge Handbook of Intellectual Property and Social Justice.](#) Protection for intellectual property has never been absolute; it has always been limited in the public interest. The benefits of

intellectual property protection are meant to flow to everyone, not just a limited population of creators and the corporations that represent them. Given this social-utility function, intellectual property regimes must address issues of access, inclusion, and empowerment for marginalized and excluded groups. This handbook defines an approach to considering social justice in intellectual property law and regulation. 2024-01, [Worldwide]

[World Report 2024](#). Annual Review Of Human Rights Around The Globe [Human Rights Watch], 2023-11-16, [Worldwide]

## **Human Rights Defenders and Activists**

[How to Achieve Justice: Interview with Fernando Travesí, Director of the International Center for Transitional Justice](#). Fernando Travesí is the Executive Director of the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). He has over 20 years of international experience in transitional justice, human rights, and rule of law, working for both international organizations and NGOs. [Varada, Pranay], 2024-01-10, Harvard International Review, [Worldwide]

[Human Rights Publications from Memoria Abierta \(Argentina\)](#). Memoria Abierta, a collective group of Argentinean human rights organizations (HROs), represents the struggle against historically repressive regimes during the late 20th century. During the last five decades, these organizations authored publications detailing their histories, promoting organizational events, and sharing social commentary. This collection reveals the work of human rights activism and traces the history of these organizations in Argentina. [Modern Endangered Archives Program], 2024-01, UCLA Library, [Argentina]

[Release of Virginia Laparra is a triumph against injustice](#). Ana Piquer, Americas director at Amnesty International, said: “Virginia Laparra should never have spent a day in jail. It’s great news that she can be reunited with her loved ones after nearly two years as a prisoner of conscience. Her release is a first step towards ending the terrible human rights violations she has faced in retaliation for her outstanding work as an anti-corruption prosecutor.” [Amnesty International], 2024-01-03, Amnesty International, [Guatemala]

[The Peruvian Peasant Confederation Archive: Rural and Indigenous Society, National Politics, and International Solidarity](#). Since 1947 the Confederación Campesina del Perú (CCP) has been active in defense of peasants and indigenous people. Their archive documents the organized efforts of rural and indigenous people in Peru during the 20th century, including the 1969 agrarian reform and the conflict with the Shining Path (1980-1992). [Modern Endangered Archives Program], 2024-01, UCLA Library, [Peru]

[The Workings of Human Rights, Law and Justice: A Journey from Nepal to Nobel Nominee](#). Drawing on the personal experience of a leading international jurist, this book provides insights into the workings of international law and human rights from a global perspective. The work follows the author’s remarkable journey from a simple village in Nepal to becoming an international jurist acclaimed for his innovative academic and influential practical legal work and nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize. While much has been written on international human rights law, this inspirational memoir casts a new light on the working of human rights, law, and justice through the eyes of a leading actor. It provides a valuable contribution to the study of justice and human rights and the importance of individual action. [Subedi, Surya], 2024-01-29, [Worldwide]



## Human Trafficking

[How Haiti Destroyed Slavery and Led the Way to Freedom throughout the Atlantic World](#). Not the United States, Great Britain, France, or any other enslaver deserves credit for ending slavery. Atlantic abolition began with Haiti. [Daut, Marlene L.], 2024-01-09, Public Books, [Haiti]

## Indigenous Matters

[A Journey Through the Documents That Inspired 'Killers of the Flower Moon'](#). Many of the documents written and received by the real-life people portrayed in Martin Scorsese's latest film are housed in Cowtown. [Montoya, Stephen], 2024-01-08, Fort Worth Magazine, [United States of America]

[A Virginia tribe says racism wiped their Native identity from historic records. Nearly a century later, they're still fighting for recognition](#). The Patawomeck Indian Tribe has been fighting to gain federal recognition from the US government for more than a decade. The tribe says the designation is critical to preserving its cultural traditions. [Duster, Chandelis], 2024-01-20, CNN, [United States of America]

[Canada led efforts to weaken original UN Indigenous rights declaration](#). The Canadian Liberal government led efforts to weaken the original draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, working secretly with Australia to develop a watered-down, state-friendly substitute in the early 2000s, newly released documents show. [Forester, Brett], 2024-01-15, CBC News, [Canada + Australia]

[Following the Voice failure. Indigenous politicians are calling for the UN's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to be implemented. What is it and what would it mean?](#). In the aftermath of a disappointing Voice referendum, Indigenous politicians are looking to the United Nations Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a potential way forward. [Bell, Kevin; Atkinson, Wayne], 2024-01-15, The Conversation, [Australia]

[Former 'Namgis Nation chief remembered as 'example of how we should carry ourselves in this world'](#). Chief Bill Cranmer was known for repatriating cultural objects, helping preserve 'Namgis culture, language. He died in his Alert Bay home on Wednesday at the age of 85. [CBC News], 2024-01-06, CBC, [Northern America]

[Human rights tribunal to be told Canada is still failing First Nations kids](#). The First Nations Family and Caring Society will argue before the Human Rights Tribunal Friday that Canada isn't living up to its promise of timely access to health care for Indigenous children. Jordan's Principle is a legal rule that ensures First Nations kids are able to access health care, social and educational supports when they need them, with questions about which jurisdiction pays for them to be worked out afterward. [Passafiume, Alessia; Canadian Press], 2024-01-15, CTV News, [Canada]

[Indigenous Americans — The Journal's Historical "Indian Problem"](#). The prestigious New England Journal of Medicine publishes an introspection on centuries of unjust and racist medicine towards Indigenous People. The long list of prejudices evoked makes us realize that they are deeply rooted in Western societies. [Jones, David S.; Abdalla, Moustafa; Gone, Joseph P.], 2024-01-04, New England Journal of Medicine, [Worldwide]

[Shocking images show why many Aussies are no longer celebrating Australia Day](#). January 26 is 'Australia Day'. It marks the 1788 landing of the First Fleet and raising of the Union Flag of Great Britain on the southern shore of Sydney Harbour. It is also a day the day of remembrance of the start of the violent colonization of Australia. The item describes the shocking genocidal process that started on that day. [Sutton, Candace], 2024-01-25, Daily Mail Online, [Australia]

[Taonga archive of Māori history in photos acquired by national library](#). The purchase of thousands of photos has come as a result of a new deal between the archive's foreign owner and the National Library of New Zealand. The historic archive includes important images of key figures in Māoridom and a significant section of images documenting political activation. [1News Reporters], 2024-01-08, 1 News, [New Zealand]

## **Internet and Social Media**

[Another Brick In The Great Kremlin Firewall: Mass Internet Outages Part Of 'Sovereign Internet'](#). Broader and wider than previous outages, the disruptions in Russia's Internet were the latest indication that Russian digital regulators are moving forward to create a "sovereign Internet" to wall off Russia's cyberspace and to restrict the free flow of information. [Eckel, Mike], 2024-01-31, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, [Russian Federation]

[Et si les réseaux sociaux devenaient une chance pour nos démocraties ?](#). Alors que le président libertarien argentin Javier Milei, a largement profité des réseaux sociaux lors de sa campagne présidentielle, notamment pour séduire les plus jeunes générations, d'autres personnalités politiques envisagent au contraire de quitter ces mêmes réseaux. Force est de constater que depuis de nombreuses années, les réseaux sociaux dominants, dont le modèle d'affaires repose sur l'économie de l'attention favorise structurellement le clash et la polarisation des opinions. [Alombert, Anne; Cattan, Jean], 2024-01-11, La Conversation, [Worldwide]

[Statement by ICC Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan KC on conference addressing cyber-enabled crimes through the Rome Statute system](#). The Office of the Prosecutor hosts an innovative conference addressing cyber-enabled crimes through the Rome Statute system. Gathering more than 100 participants including from 12 cybersecurity and technology companies at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague [Khan KC, Karim A.A.], 2024-01-22, International Criminal Court, [Worldwide]

## **Israel-Gaza Crisis**

[Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip](#). 29 December 2023, South Africa filed an Application instituting proceedings against Israel concerning alleged violations by Israel of its obligations under the Convention on the "Genocide Convention" in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. [International Court of Justice], 2024-01-26, [Israel + Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN)]

[Foreign Office lawyers 'unable to conclude if Israeli bombing was lawful'](#). The evidence shows a far more intensive investigation was under way inside the government about Israel's compliance with international law than suggested by the foreign secretary. [Wintour, Patrick], 2024-01-19, The Guardian, [United Kingdom]

[Gaza: World Court Orders Israel to Prevent Genocide](#). The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered provisional measures on January 26, 2024, in South Africa's case alleging that Israel is violating the Genocide Convention. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-01-26, Human Rights Watch, [Israel + Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN)]

[How digital archives are preserving Palestinian history amid Israel's bombardment of Gaza](#). Keen to preserve items and documents pertaining to the history of Palestine, a digital platform, Palestine Nexus, launched in 2020, has redoubled its efforts to gather and protect treasures drawn from archives across the Middle East. [Malvisi, Gabriele], 2024-01-09, Arab News, [Palestine (Permanent Observer to the UN)]

[World Court to hear Genocide Case Against Israel](#). The International Court of Justice (ICJ) hearings on January 11 and 12, 2024, on genocide in Gaza will include the first formal response by Israel before an independent and impartial court, to allegations of atrocities against the Palestinian people since October 7, 2023. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-01-10, Human Rights Watch, [Israel + South Africa]

## **Labor Rights**

[Workers in Argentina face the biggest blow to their employment rights since the military dictatorship of the 1970s](#). Since he took office, Milei has been busy with his agenda of cutting. Within weeks he had published an 82-page executive decree as an inaugural phase of his extensive deregulation. The decree is designed to fundamentally change Argentinian society, directly affecting the rights and protections of millions of workers. [Zorzoli, Luciana], 2024-01-10, The Conversation, [Argentina]

## **LGBTQ+ Rights**

[For families of LGBTQ+ hate crime victims, our tragic loss was compounded by NSW police who turned away with a 'sorry, mate'](#). Dozens of cases profiled by special commission are studies in police tactics to erase LGBTQ+ murders from the history books. [Steve Johnson], 2024-01-01, The Guardian, [Australia]

## **Medical Records**

[US immigration officials didn't properly document hysterectomies - watchdog](#). Officials didn't document medical necessity in two cases. Based on that sample, the OIG said it could infer with 95% confidence that between 137 and 217 of 553 major surgical procedures were not properly approved in the timeframe it studied. [Levine, Sam], 2024-01-26, The Guardian, [United States of America]

[What Newly Digitized Records Reveal About the Tuskegee Syphilis Study](#). The archival trove chronicles the extreme measures administrators took to ensure Black sharecroppers did not receive treatment for the venereal disease [Gainty, Caitjan; The Conversation], 2024-01-12, Smithsonian Magazine, [United States of America]

## **Migration**

[Casi 141.000 personas pidieron refugio en México en 2023, la mayor cifra en 10 años](#). En 2023, 140.982 personas solicitaron refugio al Gobierno de México por diferentes motivos —como la

inseguridad o sentir que son perseguidas en sus países de origen—, lo que representa la cifra más alta registrada en una década, de acuerdo con las estadísticas más recientes publicadas por la Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a Refugiados (Comar) [Torres, Mauricio], 2024-01-15, CNN, [Mexico]

[Reparative Archival Work](#). Since the “biographical turn”, scholars of the African diaspora have recovered diasporic Black lives that fill in an abstract and anonymous Black Atlantic history, but Asian North Americanist scholars have struggled to uncover personal stories of the earliest Chinese immigrants to Canada that write back to the dehumanizing bureaucratic records collected during the Exclusion Era. [Chapman, Mary], 2024-01-09, [Northern America]

## Privacy

[A balancing act: Collecting data for social good in an age of privacy concerns](#). An in-depth analysis of the potential impact of India’s Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 on the social sector in India. [Rana, Satender; Rajaram, Sowmya; Sharma, Divya], 2024-01-10, LSE International Development, [India]

[Court rules Barita must comply with IC request for financial records of public officials](#). The Supreme Court has ruled that Barita Investments Limited must comply with an Integrity Commission (IC) request for financial information on 151 current and former public officials. [Jovan Johnson], 2024-01-17, The Jamaica Gleaner, [Jamaica]

[Digital Rights and Privacy](#). It is almost impossible to avoid having a digital footprint. Social media, streaming websites, navigation applications, online shopping websites, and search engines generate a large amount of data about users' digital habits. Tech companies have used this data to “optimize” their products and allow them to better predict users' behaviors, but the collection and use of data has raised new questions about the right to digital privacy. 2024-01-05, [Worldwide]

[Google promised to delete location data on abortion clinic visits. It didn't. Study says](#). Tech giant said it would delete entries for locations deemed ‘personal’ or sensitive, but 18 months later, it’s still retaining data in some cases. [Bhuiyan, Johana], 2024-01-17, The Guardian, [United States of America]

## Racism

[‘It could foster empathy’: Black archives look to preservation amid growing US history bans](#). Matter-of-fact accounting of the legal mechanism of slavery provides insight into American history and the country’s fraught present. At a time when many schools across the country grapple with teaching truthful American history, the preservation of precious archival documents can provide a vital lens through which to understand the past and its implications for the present and future. [Walker, Adria R.], 2024-01-15, The Guardian, [United States of America]

[Is Israel's treatment of Palestinians a form of apartheid?](#). In 1976, then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the then-nascent right-wing movement that pushed Jewish settlers into what was supposed to be Palestinian land was a “cancer” and an “acute danger” to Israel’s democracy. He warned that it would lead to apartheid, a specter raised in later years by his successors Ehud Barak and Ehud Olmert. [Wilkinson, Tracy], 2024-01-09, Los Angeles Times, [Israel]

[Louisiana's 'Cancer Alley'](#). The fossil fuel and petrochemical industry in the Louisiana area that has come to be known as “Cancer Alley” has devastated the health, lives, and environment of residents. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-01-25, Human Rights Watch, [United States of America]

[Transatlantic slavery continued for years after 1867, historian finds](#). Evidence found by Hannah Durkin includes ships landing in Cuba in 1872, and people held in Benin in 1873. [Alberge, Dalya], 2024-01-04, The Guardian, [Worldwide]

## **Reconciliation**

[Beyond Evidence: The Use of Archives in Transitional Justice](#). Drawing on conceptual debates in transitional justice and critical archival studies, as well as empirical cases from various countries around the world, the contributions in this book critically examine the evidentiary value of archives by linking them to a multitude of transitional justice processes, goals and ideals, including remembrance processes, witnessing, reconciliation, non-recurrence, and various struggles against injustices and prevalent violence. [Viebach, Julia; Hovestädt, Dagmar; Lühe, Ulrike], 2024-01-29, [Worldwide]

[Le Portugal durcit les conditions de naturalisation des juifs séfarades](#). Au Portugal, les descendants des juifs portugais expulsés il y a plus de 500 ans du territoire peuvent obtenir la nationalité. Mais des scandales ont conduit à un durcissement des conditions. Une loi en ce sens a été votée vendredi 5 janvier 2024. [Darcy, Marie-Line], 2024-01-07, RFI, [Portugal]

[New Transitional Justice Process Lacks Credibility](#). The Sri Lankan government's proposed law to create another body to investigate wartime abuses replicates previous failed efforts, ignores the needs of victims, and falls far short of meeting Sri Lanka's international legal obligations. [Human Rights Watch], 2024-01-29, Human Rights Watch, [Sri Lanka]

## [The Commission For Truth, Unity and Reconciliation: A Damp Squib for Human Rights](#)

[Archives and Records](#). The Bill on the Commission for Truth, Unity and Reconciliation (CTUR) in Sri Lanka was finally issued in the Gazette on January 1, 2024 after months of announcements by the government. However, recommendations sent to the president and key ministries regarding the management of records have not been addressed in the current draft. This includes the establishment of a nexus with the Sri Lanka National Archives (SLNA) for the transfer of records, processing the records of previous commissions of inquiry (CoIs), establishing a records management unit and acknowledging rights of access for affected persons. [Nugawela, Nigel], 2024-01-11, Groundviews, [Sri Lanka]

[Transitional Justice in Tunisia: Innovations, Continuities, Challenges](#). This book engages comprehensively with the dynamics of the transitional justice process in Tunisia and its mechanisms, elaborating lessons for transitional justice practice globally. Grounded in new empirical material as well as a broader awareness of transitional justice, this book provides a thorough assessment of transitional justice in Tunisia. 2024-01-29, [Tunisia]

## **Refugees**

[Labour to table vote calling for release of Rwanda deportation plan documents](#). Party to ask for details of individual relocation costs and any payments to the Rwandan government. [Syal, Rajeev], 2024-01-09, The Guardian, [United Kingdom]

## Reparation

[Cultural Objects and Reparative Justice: A Legal and Historical Analysis](#). Cultural Objects and Reparative Justice provides a comprehensive legal and historical analysis surrounding a highly debated current question: Where should cultural objects that were removed without consent be located? This book follows an innovative, interdisciplinary approach based in law, history, art history, anthropology, and archaeology and proposes a paradigm for reparations. [Gerstenblith, Patty], 2024-01-05, [Worldwide]

[US cities start racism reparations as national efforts languish](#). After decades of stalled attempts in Congress at redress for slavery or structural racism, dozens of local efforts are now moving forward [Biron, Carey L.], 2024-01-12, Context, [United States of America]

## Spying

[Spain to declassify secret documents in 'Catalan Gate' scandal](#). The Spanish government agreed on Tuesday to release secret documents on the tapping of the mobile phone of Catalan President and leader of the separatist party ERC Pere Aragonés by agents of the state-run National Intelligence Centre (CNI) using the Israeli spying software Pegasus, a scandal known as "Catalan Gate". [Heller, Fernando], 2024-01-17, www.euractiv.com, [Spain]

## Technology

[Cops Used DNA to Predict a Suspect's Face—and Tried to Run Facial Recognition on It](#). Police around the US say they're justified to run DNA-generated 3D models of faces through facial recognition tools to help crack cold cases. Everyone but the cops thinks that's a bad idea, a privacy breach. Without oversight, law enforcement is now able to mix and match technologies in unintended ways, using untested algorithms to predict what a person could look given genetic attributes found in the DNA sample and single out suspects based on unknowable criteria. [Dhruv, Mehrotra], 2024-01-24, Wired, [Unites States of America]

[France Should Commit to an International Treaty on Autonomous Weapons](#). France initiated the first multilateral talks on autonomous weapons a decade ago at the CCW and has been one of the most active and engaged states on this concern, but it has the potential to do so much more. [Fortin, Tony; Jeannerod, Bénédicte; Patrouillard, Manuel; Samouiller, Jean-Claude], 2024-01-15, Human Rights Watch/ Le Monde, [France]

[Meta documents show 100.000 children sexually harassed daily on its platforms](#). Employees fretted over company's 'negligible' response to child grooming, according to internal documents made public in lawsuit. [McQue, Katie], 2024-01-18, The Guardian, [Worldwide]

## Transparency

[Internet access a human right](#). Minister with responsibility for Information, Robert Morgan, says the Government sees internet access as a human right that should be available to citizens wherever they reside. [The Jamaica Gleaner], 2024-01-17, The Jamaica Gleaner, [Jamaica]

[Russian News Outlet Says Data Shows Putin Signed Record Number Of Secret Decrees In 2023](#). Almost one-half of the presidential decrees signed by Russian leader Vladimir Putin last year were

done in secret, a local media outlet said, more than any other year on record. [Current Time], 2024-01-02, RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty, [Russian Federation]

[\*\*Spycatcher scandal: newly released documents from the Thatcher era reveal the changing nature of government secrecy.\*\*](#) Cabinet Office papers expose Thatcher's anxiety over the famous book, and the difference between governing in the 1980s and the modern information age. [Grube, Dennis C.], 2024-01-04, The Conversation, [United Kingdom]

[\*\*Zambia enacts new Access to Information law.\*\*](#) Zambia has become the latest country to enact an Access to Information law, signed the bill last month. Under the new law, every citizen can request unclassified information from the government on any issue of public interest. [New Zimbabwe.com], 2024-01-10, New Zimbabwe, [Zambia]

## **War Crimes**

[\*\*By opening up the archives, Canada can finally address its past with Nazi war criminals.\*\*](#) In Canada, attempts to access records containing information on potential war criminals have been stymied by privacy and national security restrictions. Given the poor record of dealing with Holocaust perpetrators, scholars are now calling for widespread disclosure and declassification of records—comparable with that of the United States—so that Canada can finally address this troubling aspect of its past. [McBride, Jared; Rudling, Per], 2024-01-27, Globe and Mail, [Canada]

## **Women's Rights**

[\*\*6ème état des lieux du sexisme en France : s'attaquer aux racines du sexisme.\*\*](#) Le Haut Conseil à l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes (HCE) que vient de faire paraître son rapport annuel 2024. 86 % des femmes déclarent « avoir déjà personnellement vécu une situation sexiste ». « C'est aux racines du sexisme qu'il faut s'attaquer », et « de toute urgence », peut-on lire dans le rapport. « Le sexisme commence à la maison, continue à l'école et explose en ligne. » [Haut Conseil à l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes], 2024-01-24, Haut Conseil à l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes, [France]

[\*\*Ending violence against women: can a UN protocol make a difference?\*\*](#) A record 89,000 women were intentionally killed in 2022, including more than 130 killed every day by a partner or relative. This is just one of the many forms of violence against women and girls that Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Antigua and Barbuda and Sierra Leone are hoping to tackle through a globally agreed framework. [Langrand, Michelle], 2024-01-03, Geneva Solutions, [Worldwide]

## **Women's Rights**

[\*\*Lilian, la última liberada en El Salvador por una muerte neonatal: "Ya estamos todas afuera".\*\*](#) Tras siete años encarcelada por una emergencia obstétrica, la jueza anula la sentencia por la vulneración de garantías procesales. Desde 2014, 73 mujeres fueron puestas en libertad, pero 11 procesos penales siguen abiertos por aborto [Mahtani, Noor], 2024-01-17, El País América, [El Salvador]

## World War II

[Call for Participants | Workshop UK Universities: "Mapping the Holocaust"](#). 24 May 2024 | Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London | Deadline for applications: 1 March 2024 | The organizers invite applications for a one-day workshop on Mapping the Holocaust. In examining the routes taken by people, objects, and ideas during and after the Holocaust, this workshop highlights the connections and diversions (geographically, temporally, topically, etc.) when attempting to 'map the Holocaust'. [European Holocaust Research Infrastructure], 2024-01-15, European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, [Worldwide]



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Europe: [The European Convention on Human Rights and the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). [McQuigg, Ronagh J.A.], 2024-01-16, [Epidemic and pandemic]

Northern America: [Former 'Namgis Nation chief remembered as 'example of how we should carry ourselves in this world'](#). [CBC News], 2024-01-06, CBC, [Indigenous Matters]

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Worldwide: [New Global Business Initiative on Human Rights resource provides insights from company practice on integrating human rights into climate action](#). [Global Business Initiative], 2024-01-12, [Business]

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Worldwide: [The Office of the Prosecutor launches public principles to advance understanding of the crime of gender persecution](#). [Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court], 2024-01-17, International Criminal Court, [Crimes Against Humanity]

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